

“Interpreter of Maladies” by Jhumpa Lahiri

Assignment 1

1. Read the story “A Temporary Matter” (p. 9 – 19).

2. Transcribe, pronounce and translate the following words:

a revolt, dwarfed, a cesarean, typographical, mediocre, a recipe, to record, dysentery, superfluous.

3. Read and translate the following passages aloud:

p. 10 “These days Shoba was always ... to teach his classes that semester.”

p. 12 “At some point in the evening ... a place Shoba avoided.”

4. a) Study the following words and word-combinations. Be ready to bring out the situations in which they are used in the chapters.

(p. 9) to cut smth. / smb. off

(p. 10) facility (for smth.)

(p. 10) to withdraw from smth.

(p. 10) to wrap smth. up

(p. 10) to get through smth.

(p. 11) to go through smth.

(p. 13) timing

(p. 14) to end up (in smth. / doing smth.)

(p. 16) to come up with smth.

(p. 18) to spare smb. smth.

b) Translate the following sentences with these words and word-combinations:

1. If this bill is not paid within five days, your gas supply will be cut off. 2. She often is cast in roles that highlight her intelligence and verbal facility. 3. Following his nervous breakdown, he withdrew from public life and refused to give any interviews. 4. My guess is they'll wrap the meeting up fairly quickly. 5. We need to conserve our supplies so we can get through the winter.

6. Before I gave up coffee, I was going through five cups a day. 7. The difference between a joke told well and a joke told badly is the timing. 8. The deals were popular at the time, but many ended up losing money. 9. She's come up with some amazing scheme to double her income. 10. Luckily, I was spared the embarrassment of having to sing in front of everyone.

5. a) Find in the text the English equivalents of the following Russian words and word-combinations:

Поправлять / прилаживать / выравнивать ч.-л. (9); надлежащий / ожидаемый / назначенный (9); трудноуловимый / иллюзорный / расплывчатый (10); друг за другом / гуськом (11); стать душевно надломленным / быть в расстроенных чувствах (11); пропадать зря / оставаться неиспользованным (11); смотреть / присматривать за ч.-л. / заботиться о ч.-л. (13); сражать / потрясать / ошеломлять к.-л. (15); разглядывать / просматривать (15); вести диалог / обмениваться ч.-л. / отвечать взаимностью (16); вызывать тошноту / внушать отвращение (18); искривлять / искажать / деформировать ч.-л. (18).

b) Use these words and word-combinations in the following sentences, translate them:

1.

All of our hard work will ... to ... if the board rejects our proposal.

2. My experience of driving along dual highways is that whenever we come to a roundabout we are quite rightly reduced to 3. We gave them information, but they didn't 4.

Phillips took ... note of the key statistics. 5. It is terrible to watch him, his face ...s with agony when he tries to get up or sit down, and when he tries to walk. 6. The nurse gently ...(e)d the patient's cuts and bruises. 7. As a teacher you have to

... your methods to suit the needs of slower children. 8. I was ...
 (e)d by all the flowers and letters of support I received.
 9. I was so nervous, I ... to ... and couldn't give my speech. 10.
 One thing which has ...(e)d me is the way in which patients are
 treated almost as if they were a nuisance. 11. I don't like going
 into clothes shops where they don't leave you in peace to 12.
 The answers to these questions remain as ... as ever.

6. PHRASAL VERBS

a) In your **Active Vocabulary** (Task 4) you have several phrasal verbs – some of them have extra meanings in addition to the ones they're used in in the text. Match the verbs (Column 1) and all their meanings (Column 2). Give the Russian equivalents of all the meanings.

to cut off (3)	– to cover something or someone with paper or other material;
to wrap up (2)	– to suggest or think of an idea or plan;
to get through (3)	– to do something in order to practice or as a
to go through (3)	– to finally be in particular place or situation
to end up (2)	– to stop people from continuing a phone conversation by breaking the phone connection;
to come up with (2)	– to succeed in talking to someone on the phone
	– to use a lot of something;
	– to cause a person or place to become separate cause someone to be or feel alone;
	– to achieve a situation after other activities
	– to succeed in an exam or competition;
	– to manage to find or produce something that is needed, usually money;
	– to stop providing something such as electricity supplies, etc.;
	– to complete something successfully or to finish doing something;
	– to experience a difficult or unpleasant situation
	– to make it possible for a person to deal successfully with a difficult or painful

	experience, and come to the end of it
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b) Use these phrasal verbs in the following sentences, translate them:

1. My friendship with Carla ... me ... (Past Simple) those tough months just after we moved. 2. They're travelling across Europe by train and are planning to in Moscow. 3. Let's it once more to make sure you know what to say. 4. The aim was to the enemy's escape route and supplies. 5. I (Past Simple) to the wrong department. 6. They gave him 30 days to the money he owed. 7. You'd think his children would be more sympathetic towards him after all he (Present Perfect). 8. After working her way around the world, she (Past Simple) teaching English as a foreign language. 9. She (Past Simple) her exams without too much trouble. 10. She (Past Simple) a deal just before she left on vacation. 11. Many villages (Present Perfect) by the heavy snow. 12. He (Past Simple) a great idea for the ad campaign. 13. well - it's cold outside. 14. I (Past Simple) a hundred quid on my last trip to London. 15. We (Past Simple) before she could give me directions.

7. Fill in the underlined gaps with prepositions:

1. The more Shoba stayed out, the more she began putting ... extra hours ... work and taking ... additional projects, the more he wanted to stay ... (9) 2. ...she searched ... typographical errors ... textbooks and marked them, ... a code she had once explained ... him, ... an assortment ... colored pencils (9). 3. Instead he thought ... how he and Shoba had become experts ...

avoiding each other... (10) 4. She kept the bonuses ... her job ... a separate bank account ... her name (11). 5. ...the pantry was always stocked ... extra bottles ... olive and corn oil, depending ... whether they were cooking Italian or Indian (11). 6. When he turned his head ... the left, he saw a woman next ... him making a grocery list ... the back ... a folder... (14) 7. Shukumar had stepped ... her way... (16) 8. ... the end ... their street Shukumar heard sounds ... a drill and the electricians shouting ... it (16). 9. He was torn ... admitting that he once ripped ... a photo ... a woman ... one ... the fashion magazines she used to subscribe ... and carried it ... his books ... a week, or saying that he really hadn't lost the sweater-vest she bought him ... their third wedding anniversary but had exchanged it ... cash ... Filene's... (16) 10. He felt an intense desire ... the woman, but it was a desire that turned ... disgust ... a minute or two (17). 11. The line had been repaired ... schedule, it said (17). 12. ... when he arrived ... the store he didn't feel ... cooking anymore (17).

8. Answer the questions in detail:

What did the notice inform them about? How did they react to it?

How did Shoba look when she entered the house? What was her husband doing when she came? What changes in her and in himself did Shukumar notice?

What happened to them 6 months ago? What did he recall most vividly about that time?

What were they? How did their daily life change after their personal misfortune? Did they get along with each other?

In what way did her manner of treating things and home differ from the one she used to have?

What behavior used to be typical of her before the misfortune? What qualities of hers that set her apart from his mother did he appreciate?

How did they put in the evenings of late?

How came they ended up having supper by the light of birthday candles? How did Shukumar arrange it?

When and under what circumstances did they last receive guests?

Why did their supper remind Shoba of India? Why was Shukumar irritated during the supper? How did they communicate during the supper? What Indian tradition did Shoba remember and suggest following?

Why didn't Shukumar have such a close link with India as Shoba did?

What facts about themselves did they reveal on the first night of power failure? What was their first meeting like? What changes in her appearance did Shukumar notice during that conversation?

What thoughts flashed through his mind on the second night of power failure when they both were looking forward to the lights going out? What did their neighbours indulge in when the lights went out?

What confessions did they make on the 2nd and the following nights?

How did another notice from the electric company affect his mood?

What news did Shoba break to her husband? How did Shukumar react to the news and what promise of his did he break at that moment? What did they realize that made them both cry?

WHAT IS THE MAIN IDEA OF THE STORY? When thinking about it keep in mind the title and the key moments of the story.